

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed June 1, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter for claims 3, 7, 8, 12, 16 and 17 is appreciated. Claims 7 and 17 have now been redrafted into independent form as claims 1 and 10, respectively. Claims 1-6 and 8-16 remain pending in the application, the independent claims being 1 and 10. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9-11 and 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0161635 to Milton et al. ("Milton") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,549,572 to Anderson et al. ("Anderson").

In view of the redrafting of claims 7 and 17 into independent form as claims 1 and 10, respectively, and in view of the Examiner's indicated allowability of claims 7 and 17 if so redrafted, the instant basis for rejection is believed to be moot.

Claims 3, 7, 8, 12, 16 and 17 stand objected to for dependency from a rejected claim, but would be allowable if redrafted into independent form. Due to the redrafting of claims 7 and 17 into independent form as claims 1 and 10, respectively, and due to the dependency of each other pending claim from either claim 1 or claim 10, the instant objection is believed to be moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in the event of any perceived outstanding issues so that passage of the case to issue can be effected without the need for a further Office Action.

In the event that any additional fee is required to continue the prosecution of this Application as requested, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 502-470.

Respectfully submitted,

CHA & REITER

By: 
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Date: August 26, 2004

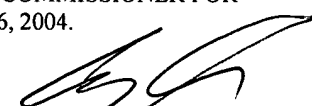
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